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**Edgar & Elizabeth Collard**









*To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland  
in Parliament Assembled.*

THE PETITION of the undersigned Members of the RADICAL CLUB, and others, against the COERCION OF CANADA.

Sheweth,

1. That the Assembly and People of Lower Canada have repeatedly complained of grievances which remain to this day unredressed.

2. That these grievances the Canadians attribute to the maintenance of a dominant oligarchy, having no sympathies with the mass of the people.

3. That in this respect the people of Canada are in a position precisely similar to the people of Ireland.

4. That the principal means of maintaining the domination of the minority is an irresponsible second chamber, called the Legislative Council.

5. That the people of Canada have accordingly repeatedly prayed for the reform of this Council, on the principle of election.

6. That in order to enforce their prayer, the Assembly has exercised its Constitutional right of stopping supplies.

7. That the Resolutions introduced by his Majesty's Government on the 6th of March, will, if passed by your Honourable House, effectually trample upon the said Constitutional right.

8. That the said Resolutions are consequently unjust, arbitrary, and tyrannical, and calculated to destroy all hope of reconciliation between the justly irritated people of Canada and the Government of this country; and are sufficient, in your Petitioners' opinion, to justify resistance on the part of the people of Canada.

9. That the said Resolutions are in direct violation of an Act passed in the eighteenth year of the reign of his late Majesty George the Third, called the Declaratory Act—an act extorted from the fears of the administration of that day by the hostile position of the United Colonies, now the United States of America.

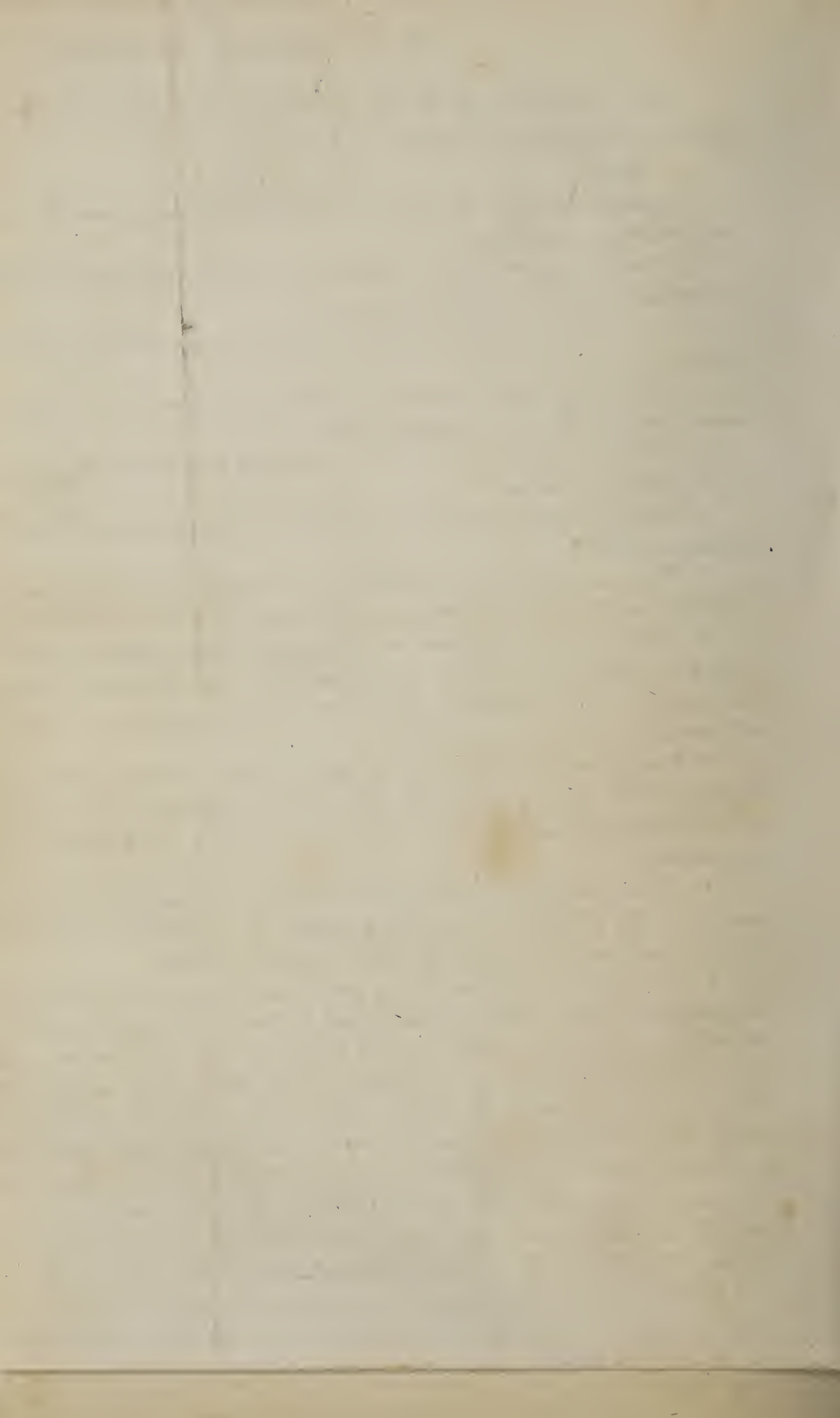
10. That the course pursued by his Majesty's Government towards Canada is also directly contrary to the principles by which they profess to be guided in legislating for Ireland, of which country almost every grievance may find a parallel in Canada.

11. That, in deprecating this course, your Petitioners beg to remind your Honourable House that the Canadas contain a population nearly equal to that of the United Colonies at the commencement of the troubles, which terminated in separation: That the United Colonies nourished a foe—namely, the Slave population—within their very bosom, which the Canadas do not: That the powerful Indian Tribes were then a source of terror to the Colonists, whereas now they are friendly: That the people of the said Colonies were not nearly so unanimous as the Canadians are: And lastly, that they had an enemy on their frontier, whilst the Canadians have a friendly and sympathising power.

12. That the Northern or non-slave-holding States have every motive to aid the people of the Canadas, and promote their junction with the United States, as a counterpoise against Texas, likely to become an addition to the Southern or slave-holding section of the Union.

13. That although the separation of the Canadas from the Mother Country be inevitable, and even desirable, your Petitioners deprecate a violent separation, to which the course recommended by his Majesty's Government must lead.

WHEREFORE your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House will not sanction any measure having for its object the coercion of the Assembly of Lower Canada, but will immediately grant the prayer of the Assembly for an Elective Second Chamber, and other measures, as





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